

AUG 31 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH: Deputy Director (Support) *S. A. G. L.*
SUBJECT: Security Requirements for Government Employment

1. The attached communication from the National Security Council contains a recommendation, the implications of which should be brought to your attention.

2. Recommendation B.2. on page 9 of the memorandum suggests a study concerning the practices of the various departments and agencies with respect to granting, upon request, hearings before security hearing boards to applicants and probational appointees, and to make recommendations with reference to standardization of such practices. It is felt that a suitable position for the Director to take on this matter would be to refrain from objecting to any study being conducted in this connection, but to indicate at the first opportunity that in the event that the study concludes that applicants disapproved for employment are to be permitted hearings, upon request, that CIA be excluded from such requirements.

3. The above conclusion is based on the fact that the Agency, because of its unusual operational requirements, must at all times be permitted complete flexibility in the selection of its personnel. Certain security issues in applicant cases almost defy complete resolution in the applicant's favor, or development of a "cut and dried" security case against the person concerned. In such cases where there is doubt, the Agency should be permitted to resolve such doubts in its favor. The appropriate time to make this determination is while the case is in the applicant stage. To bring security disapprovals of applicants to hearing boards for final resolution would, to a degree, tend to reduce flexibility in the selection of personnel, which flexibility should be maintained in this Agency. Further, such action would tend to bring in the open highly sensitive sources of information in applicant cases.

4. At the present time, CIA does not advise the rejected applicants who are security disapproved that the reason for their rejection is based on security grounds; hence, our procedure does not attach a security stigma to an individual not employed by the Agency. This procedure has been most effective since the inception of the Agency, and it is felt that we should strive to be permitted to continue to follow it.

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5. In view of the above, it is recommended that our position on this matter be announced early in the discussion stage of this program. None of the other recommendations have objectionable connotations from the standpoint of this Agency.

Sheffield Edwards
Director of Security

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